

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-12, 14, and 15 remain pending in the application, with Claim 1 being independent. Claims 2 and 13 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 12, and 15 have been amended herein.

Claim 15 was objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form. Without conceding the propriety of the objection, Claim 15 has been amended to depend solely from Claim 1. Claim 7 has been amended to change “provided with!!” to --provided with-- in response to another objection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections are respectfully requested.

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant has cancelled claim 13. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112, second paragraph, rejection are also requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 2-4 recite allowable subject matter. Claims 1 and 5-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. In keeping with the indication of allowable subject matter, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to include the features of allowable Claim 2. The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objections and rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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